

**Maidstone & District LTA  
Inter-Club Competition Rules**

**March 2023**

**1) General responsibilities**

- a) Each club should submit fixture dates, once agreed, and a list of all participating players for that club to the relevant League Secretary via the website or an email as soon as possible and at least 7 days before the start of the season.
- b) Matches should start in a timely manner. This is a friendly local league and all are encouraged to play and apply these rules in that spirit.
- c) The home team should ensure that the results are entered onto the website not more than 48 hours after the match. The away team should make their own copy of the result and make sure it is correct once the home team have submitted it on the website.
- D) It is recommended that the home team captain contacts the opposing captain 48 hours before the match to confirm and that the home team offers light refreshments at the end of the match.

**2) Eligibility**

- a) The qualifications for a person to play for a Club are:
  - i) Full playing membership of that Club on the day of the match and
  - ii) Registration of that person's name with the relevant Match Secretary at least seven days before the first match in which that person is to play.
  - iii) Players should have a BTM membership number.

**3) Registration**

- a) The Ladies, Mens and Mixed/Combination League are regarded as separate competitions.
- b) Such registration is valid for one summer or winter competition. In any summer or winter competition, a player may only play for one club.

**4) Nomination**

- a) Any club entering more than one team in any competition must send to the relevant Match Secretary, nominations of at least four players for each team except the lowest. These nominations must be sent at least 7 days before the start of the season. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a zero score to the offending team.
- b) Additional players may be nominated during the season and should be advised to the relevant League Secretary at least 7 days in advance of the fixture.
- c) A player shall be ineligible to play for a team if:
  - i) He/she has been nominated for a higher team in the same competition.
  - ii) He/she has played more than twice (winter) three times (summer) for a higher team in the same competition.

**5) Fixtures**

- a) Each team shall play each of the other teams in the division as published.
- b) Once the date of a match has been fixed, it should not be changed subsequently except through bad weather, unfitness of the courts or if it conflicts with a Kent League fixture (which shall have precedence) or unless otherwise outlined in c) below.
- c) Unless captains agree otherwise, if outside 72 hours of the date of the match, a match may be rearranged with the home team offering three alternative dates.

- i) The captain of the team who is not asking to rearrange can state that, in the event of rain on the day of the rearranged match and the match can't be played, they will reserve the right to take the points: - 8 points for the team who could field a team on the original date and -4 for the team that couldn't.
- ii) The captain of the team who is not wanting to rearrange the match can refuse to rearrange if court space is not available.
- d) If two teams from one Club are in the same division, these teams must try to play each other (before any other) in each half of the season.
- e) If any player is not ready to play 15 minutes after the fixed starting time, one love set shall be conceded in that rubber. If 30 minutes late, the rubber shall not be played and the opponents shall receive two love sets (NB "Ready to play" means no further knocking up).
- f) All matches shall be played within the following periods:
  - i) Summer competition: 1<sup>st</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> September)
  - ii) Winter competition: 1<sup>st</sup> October - 31<sup>st</sup> March
  - iii) Extensions to the periods will be agreed by the Committee in order to complete the competitions whereby extenuating circumstances have had a major impact.
- g) All matches shall be played on courts of any surface. Clubs with courts unfit for play may play their home matches at a venue mutually agreed by both Clubs before the start of the match.
- h) Please inform league secretaries of any rearranged dates as soon as possible.

## 6) Matches

- a) Each team shall consist of 4 players arranged in pairs. Each Captain shall number the pairs strictly in order of merit and shall make this information available to the opposing Captain before play starts. In the first round of a match, the first and second pairs shall play their opposite numbers; in the second round, each first pair shall play the opposing second pair.
- b) At least 4 (FOUR) new LTA approved balls shall be provided for each of the 4 players by the home Club.
- c) Each pair of the visiting team shall play their rubbers on the same court. Each pair shall play one rubber against each pair of the opposing team, 4 rubbers in all. Each rubber shall comprise two tie-break sets (ie at 6-6). If the score in a rubber is one set to each pair, then the outcome of that rubber shall be decided by the playing of one Championship tie-break game (ie to 10 points, unless 10-10, when a difference of two points then decides the outcome ie 10-12, 11-13 etc). This outcome is to be scored 1-0 on the score card, not 7-6 as in normal sets.
- d) No points shall be awarded for any unplayed matches.
- e) Points will be awarded for incomplete rubbers on the day of the match. When failure to complete a rubber is due to a player being unable to continue playing, the opposing pair shall be awarded the number of additional games required to complete the current set and, if necessary, a love set to complete the rubber. However, the Captains of either side may concede rubbers, sets and/or games for the purpose of completing any round except between teams of the same Club.
- f) Points shall be split for unfinished rubbers. Cessation of play shall be at a time which must be agreed by the Captains before play starts. Failing such mutual agreement, play in summer evening matches, where floodlights are not in use, shall cease not later than 9.00pm up to 31<sup>st</sup> May and after 11<sup>th</sup> July and not later than 9.30pm between those dates. Where floodlights are in use during evening matches, play shall cease not later than 10.00pm. If a result might be obtained by playing a few more games, the players may agree to continue, subject to the Captains agreeing.

- g) The Club which, at the cessation of play, has won the greatest number of rubbers shall be declared the winner of the match, provided that one round has been completed. Should the rubbers be equal, the majority of sets (in finished rubbers) shall decide and, if still equal, the majority of games. If two teams are even on rubbers, sets and games, the points shall be split equally.
- h) A Club is not bound to play the same team all season. No changes can be made to a team once the match has started, except in a postponed match, where circumstances prevent the same team from playing and any unfinished rubbers shall be replayed.
- i) For each completed match, points are awarded as follows:
  - i) Each rubber won – 2 points
  - ii) Unfinished rubbers – 1 point each
  - iii) To winning team – 4 points
  - iv) A total of 12 points available.
- j) In the event of teams scoring an equal number of rubbers, sets and games (a draw), the winning points will be split between the two teams.
- k) If a team concedes a match the conceding team will be awarded -4 points and the opposition 8 points.
- l) An official of the home Club shall submit the result onto the website not more than 48 hours after the match.

## **7) Divisional Results**

- a) The team with the highest number of points in the division wins. If points are equal, the following statistics will be used to determine the winner:
  - i) Percentage of matches won
  - ii) Percentage of rubbers won
  - iii) Percentage of sets won
  - iv) Percentage of games won
- b) Any dispute shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding on all parties.